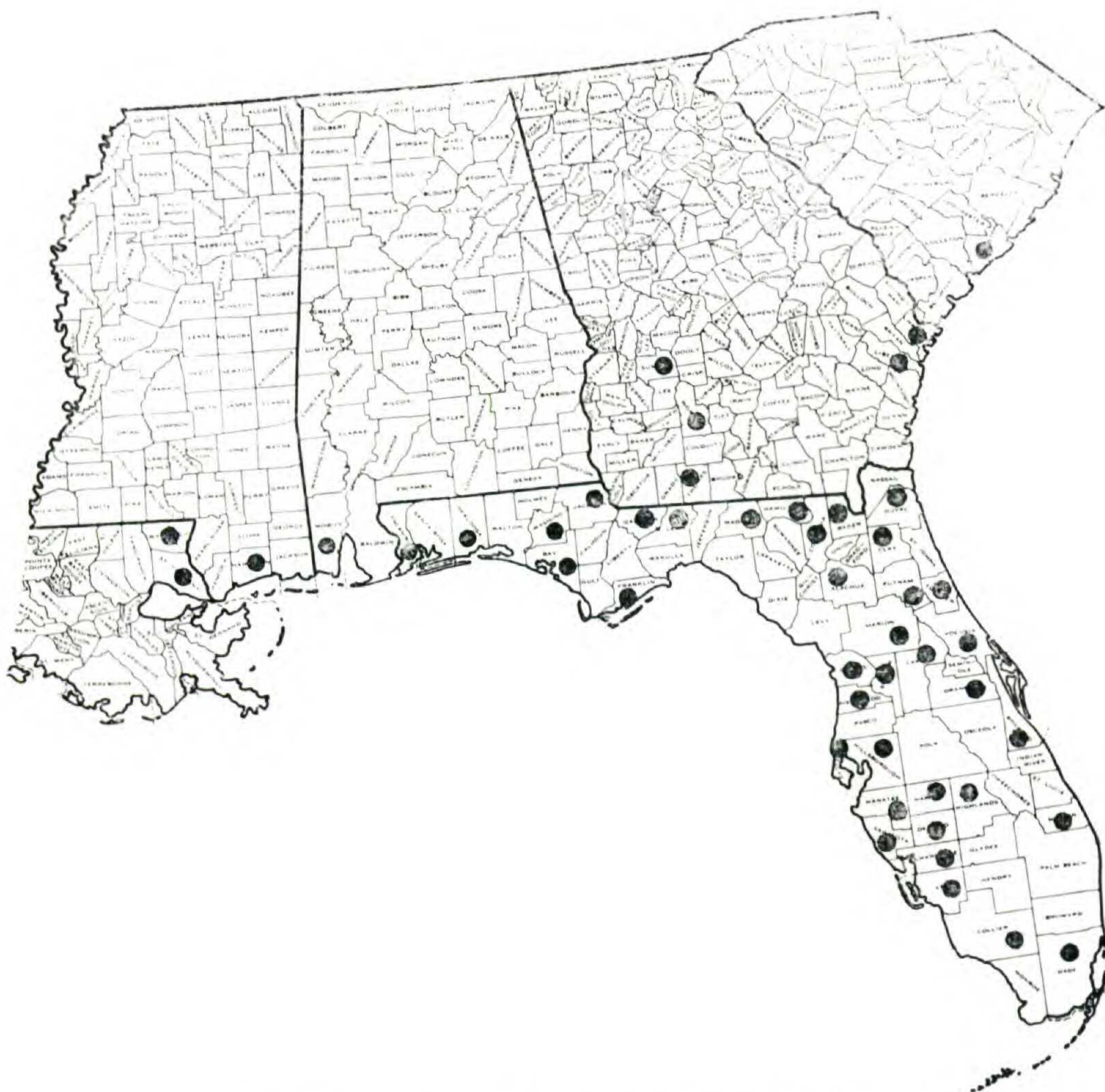


rivers, especially north of Grand Tower on the Mississippi. *Jussiaea leptocarpa* is apparently more widespread in southern Illinois than botanists believed. To find this plant, it is necessary that the botanist be in the right place — on muddy shores — at the right time — September to November. ROBERT A. EVERS, ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY, URBANA.

THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELEPHANTOPUS ELATUS. — Although *Elephantopus elatus* was described by Bertoloni in 1851, it was not considered distinct from *E. tomentosus* L. by other botanists until the beginning of the present century. The early doubt concerning the validity of this species was probably due, in part at least, to the influence of a paper published by Gray (1852) in which many of Bertoloni's binomials were shown to be mere synonyms of species described much earlier by Nuttall, Torrey, and others. Baker (1902), in a revision of the Elephantopeae, recognized the distinctiveness of *E. elatus* and reassigned it to specific status, distinguishing it from *E. tomentosus* by the denser and more coarsely pubescent glomerules and the shorter heads and pappus. Gleason (1919), too, confirmed the validity of *E. elatus*, pointing out that the trichomes on the mid-vein are forwardly appressed in this species while in *E. tomentosus* they are retrorse or spreading. In spite of these observations and the quite satisfactory key to the species of this genus provided by Gleason (1922) [but not later adopted by Small (1933)] *E. elatus* is still, in practice, seldom distinguished from *E. tomentosus*.

Concerning the distribution of these species Fernald (1950), Gleason (1952), and Small (1933) all merely report that *E. tomentosus* occurs in Florida, as Gleason (1922) and Small also report for *E. elatus*. Apparently there is no reference to the relative abundance of these species in this area or to the exact southern limits of their ranges. It is obvious, however, from certain publications (Baker, 1949; Ledin, 1951; et al.) and usage that *E. tomentosus* is accepted as the common species throughout Florida. Of the specimens examined in this study the only ones from Florida

which can clearly be assigned to *E. tomentosus* are all from the panhandle of that state (Bay, Franklin, Gadsden, Leon, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington Counties). Furthermore, the common, weedy species throughout Florida is *E. elatus* — and not *E. tomentosus*. As is indicated by the accompanying map, *E. elatus* occurs on the Coastal Plain northward from Florida into South Carolina and westward into Louisiana. It was reported by Baker (1902) from Arkansas, but its occurrence there could not be verified.



The distribution of *Elephantopus elatus* Bertol.

A few collections including some from areas (Alachua, Citrus, and Sumter Counties) south of the range of *E.*

tomentosus were encountered which have some definite characteristics of *E. tomentosus* but they cannot be properly referred to any one of the known species. These are presumably introgressants or other hybrid forms of this species and *E. elatus* and/or *E. nudatus*.

Specimens examined were kindly made available by the curators of the following institutions: UARK, FLAS, GA, GH, LA, and MO; including a specimen in the Gray Herbarium of a type collection of *E. elatus* Bertol. made by Gates from Alabama and an isotype of *E. elatus* Bertol. var. *intermedius* Gleason (a segregate not later maintained by Gleason, 1922) from Coopolis, Mississippi (Tracy 4741, MO). — C. W. JAMES, DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA.

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